

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of September 10 - September 14, 2007**

1. **1. Voter Registration:** Members of the Takoma Park Board of Elections, the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk have all been trained to serve as Maryland voter registration volunteers. A representative of the County Board of Elections conducted the training at the Community Center on September 11. The City Clerk's office can now accept Maryland voter registration forms for transmittal to Montgomery County. As always, non-U.S. citizens who reside in Takoma Park can also register to vote in City elections through the Clerk's Office. *(City Clerk)*

2. **Street Resurfacing (Wards 2 and 6):** The resurfacing of Davis Avenue and Jackson Avenue, from Flower Avenue to Garland Avenue, is scheduled to be completed by Tuesday, September 18. Glenside Drive from New Hampshire to Wildwood Avenue is scheduled to be repaved by Tuesday, September 18. *(Public Works)*

3. **Maple Avenue Bridge Sidewalk Closed:** On September 12, 2007, the City of Takoma Park closed the sidewalk on the Maple Avenue Bridge over Sligo Creek. Pedestrians wishing to cross the bridge are being directed to the pedestrian park bridge just north of Maple Avenue. The sidewalk portion of the bridge is being closed due to deterioration of the sidewalk's structural steel supports. The vehicular portion of the bridge remains open to traffic. The sidewalk is anticipated to be repaired and reopened by mid-November. The bridge is inspected regularly and the structural steel supports of the bridge and sidewalk are monitored closely. A recent inspection resulted in the decision to close the sidewalk as a preventive safety measure. *(Community and Government Liaison)*

4. **Takoma Metro Public Hearing:** The Takoma Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed development at the Takoma Metro station on Monday, September 24 at 7:30 pm in the Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park. For more information, contact Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org. *(Community and Government Liaison)*

5. **The Mayor Testifies:** Mayor Kathy Porter testified on behalf of the City Council at Tuesday's County Council public hearing on FY09 Budget Priorities and Performance Measures. The testimony can be watched via the Montgomery County website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov, County Cable 6, and weekly schedule. Besides hearing the testimony, several County Councilmembers said very nice things about Mayor Porter's service to Takoma Park and the region. *(Community and Government Liaison)*

6. **Automatic Teller Machine:** Montgomery County Employee Federal Credit Union plans to permanently remove the Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) that is currently located on the 1st floor of the Community Center. The ATM may be removed as soon as today, or soon thereafter. *(Management Assistant)*

7. **First Floor Lobby:** James F. Knott Construction Company is repairing the lobby of the first floor in the Community Center. The contractors estimate that the work should be completed by Wednesday, September 26, 2007. Arrangements have been made for citizens and staff to access the offices throughout the Community Center. *(Management Assistant)*

8. **Citizen Survey:** The National Research Center, Inc. sent postcards to a random sample of 3,000 residents announcing the upcoming Citizen Survey that they will receive by September 21, 2007. The postcards were sent to the residents on Monday, September 10, 2007. An article was published in this month's Takoma Park Newsletter on the front page describing the purpose

of the questionnaire and encouraging residents to participate. Arrangements are also being made to remind residents of the survey on Takoma Park TV, and on the City's website.
(Management Assistant)

9. Opening Reception Tonight - "Four Eyes, Two Cameras, One Month" (City-wide): The photographs of Margaret Paris and Jeff Sutton will be exhibited at the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries during the month of September. The focus of the exhibit is the Brookside Gardens and includes photographs taken by Paris and Sutton during the month of March 2006. The artists will be hosting a reception celebrating the work tonight, Friday, September 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the atrium lobby. The event is free and open to the public.
(Housing and Community Development)

10. Urban Marketplace Conference: HCD Staff members attending the Urban Land Institute's Urban Marketplace conference on Friday, September 13. The conference, focused on an exploration of various redevelopment opportunities, highlighted several best practices in emerging neighborhoods and corridors in the region. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Takoma/Langley Sector Plan Update (Ward 6): This week the complete Montgomery County/Prince George's County MNCPPC and Takoma Park planning staff met with the newly hired consultants for a team kick-off meeting at the City building. The outreach strategy and goals for the project are expected to be signed off on by the two County's planning boards at the beginning of next year, with public outreach being carried out over 2008. Staff have already been conducting outreach at events in the crossroads area, and will be at the Hispanic Day this coming Sunday. A pedestrian safety study was also completed this summer through the COG Transportation Land Coordination assistance program. The Sector Plan will amend the master plan for an area a half mile around the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard in preparation for the purple line station to be located at this intersection. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Gilbert & Wood - Urciolo Project Approved (Wards 1 and 3): Last week the Montgomery County Planning Board approved the proposed restaurant and retail to be located at the intersection of Eastern and Laurel Avenues. The project is in the process of obtaining construction permits. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. New Newsletter from MNCPPC (City-wide): To help residents stay abreast of park and planning activities, the board and its staff have launched a weekly e-newsletter. Called InfoShare, the newsletter provides a regular snapshot of what's going on in Montgomery County, such as fairs, festivals, classes, community meetings and other events of interest. InfoShare also includes links to the Planning Board's next agenda. To find out more, go to http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/board/outreach_center/outreach_center.shtm.
(Housing and Community Development)

14. Tenant Committee To Recommend Condo Conversion Legislation (City-wide): The Tenant Committee on Legislative Issues has obtained tenant support in recommending to city, county and state legislators that the Maryland Condominium Act needs to be changed. The recommended change in the law would give tenants a vote in whether or not a rental facility is converted to a condominium. Currently tenants do not have a say when a property is being converted and the result is often that a majority of the tenants are displaced from affordable rental units. Over 100 tenants in Takoma Park and the surrounding area have already signed the petition. Any tenant interested in participating in this new campaign can contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. Montgomery County Housing Fair - Saturday, September 15 (City-wide): The seventh annual Montgomery County Housing Fair will be held on Saturday, September 15 from 10a.m.-3p.m. at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg. Over 70 exhibitors will offer information on home buying, how to be financial fit and other available services in the county. Obtain a copy of credit report free, from an accredited financial counselor. Visitors to the fair will be eligible to enter a raffle to win \$500 toward their rent or mortgage. The fair features a wide assortment of children activities, entertainment and fun. For more information, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhca. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Tenant HelpLine (City-wide): Landlord-Tenant staff will be conducting a class on Thursday, September 27 from 7p.m. - 8:30p.m. on "Your Rights as a Tenant in Takoma Park" at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. A copy of the newly published Landlord-Tenant Handbook will be distributed to attendees. Topics to be discussed include security deposits, entry, the COLTA process and the new rent stabilization law. To register for the class, please call Linda Walker at 301-891-7222. *(Housing and Community Development)*

17. Officers in Meetings:

- The Montgomery County CSAFE-VRI (Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement Violence Reduction Initiative) Strategic Planning Committee met on Wednesday, September 12 at the Montgomery County Police Headquarters. A/Lt. Tyrone Collington and CSAFE Program Director Mary Kendall attended. Quarterly Strategic Planning Meetings are held to oversee the implementation of approved CSAFE strategies, goals and objectives on a regional level.
- On September 13, Chief Ricucci met with Eric Houston of the Public Safety Committee to discuss Mr. Houston's proposal for decriminalization for marijuana.
- Chief Ricucci met with Officers Eric Tehrani and Laurie Reyes of the Montgomery County Police Department regarding Project Lifesaver. Project Lifesaver is a proactive response by the Montgomery County Department of Police to identify those individuals within the community who have a propensity to wander and not be able to return home. This program has been implemented in 554 jurisdictions in 41 states across the country. There have been over 1,500 searches with an average of 22 minutes and a 100% success rate. The Chief would like to implement this plan in the City of Takoma Park. *(Police)*

18. Training: On September 11-14, Pvt. Tina Smith attended training entitled "Montgomery County Police Bike Certification Course" in Montgomery County, Maryland. *(Police)*

19. Traffic Enforcement: Officers conducted at least 62 traffic stops this week, which resulted in citations and five vehicle impounds. *(Police)*